

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00849 090457Z  
ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 SCS-06 /023 W  
-----008692 091715Z /50

R 090300Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9479

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0849

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC  
SUBJECT: GENERAL LEGAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY U.S. CITIZENS  
IN THE LPDR

REF: STATE 173247; A-4446 DATED NOV. 3, 1977

1. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO WRITTEN LAWS IN LAOS. THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE IN LAOS BECAME NULL AND VOID ON DECEMBER 2, 1975, WITH THE DEMISE OF THE PREVIOUS ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. SINCE THAT TIME NO LEGAL CODE OR WRITTEN LAWS HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED.

2. THERE IS NO "DUE PROCESS" AS WE UNDERSTAND IT IN LAOS. PEOPLE MAY BE ARRESTED AND INCARCERATED INDEFINITELY WITHOUT TRIAL OR HAVING CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST THEM. WHAT CONSTITUTES A CRIME IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY. IT MAY BE SAFELY ASSUMED THAT THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS AMONG OTHERS, ARE PROBABLY GROUNDS FOR ARREST OF FOREIGNERS IN LAOS:

- A. AIDING OR ABETTING LAO CITIZENS TO FLEE LAOS.
- B. USE OF POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS.
- C. CORRUPTING THE LAO YOUTH (PROSTITUTION).

3. IN ADDITION FOREIGNERS WHO ARE PUBLICLY CRITICAL OF THE CURRENT SOCIALIST SYSTEM OR GOVERNMENT RUN A RISK OF ARREST OR DEPORTATION.

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4. IN GENERAL NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO COME TO LAOS. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE ISSUANCE OF NON-OFFICIAL ENTRY VISAS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS HAS BEEN INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED. NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS, (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF U.S. OFFICIALS) WILL ONLY BE ISSUED VISAS

IF THEY HAVE A SPONSOR. THAT IS TO SAY THAT SOME OFFICIAL  
PARTY OR GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION MUST REQUEST A VISA ON  
THEIR BEHALF.  
ROBERTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014